

Department of Human Resources

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor Christopher J. McCabe, Secretary

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Press Release

Mid-Shore Conference Draws DHR Secretary, Staff in Multi-Jurisdictional Effort to Increase and Expedite Adoptions

Grasonville, MD (June 29, 2004) – Tomorrow, adoption workers from across the State will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Grasonville, MD, to find adoptive homes for children in Maryland's child welfare system. The event is an important networking opportunity for adoption workers from each of the State's local departments of social services.

Many of the workers attending will be representing children throughout the State who need homes. These are children who for many unfortunate reasons are often unable to live with their birth parents. They are children who need permanent, supportive homes, which DHR works to provide.

Workers representing those children will be joined by workers representing families who want to adopt.

According to Secretary Christopher J. McCabe of the Maryland Department of Human Resources, "The reason we have this event is so that a large group of our adoption workers, from Garrett to Wicomico counties, can meet face to face and work together on solutions for these children. No child in our State, in any State, should grow up without a family. We are charged with filling a very serious gap here, and that makes speeding up the adoption process incredibly important."

For Immediate Release

The ultimate goal of this networking event will be to find as many potential pairings as possible among children and prospective parents, and to set a course for creating more of what DHR refers to as “Forever Families.”

Currently, there are 10,500 children in Maryland living away from their homes in substitute care. Approximately 930 of these children are legally free for adoption. In 2003, Maryland finalized 765 adoptions. This year we are working to top that number. The media are invited to attend our networking event (at the Holiday Inn Express, 1020 Kent Narrows Road), and/or contact us for additional information about adopting in Maryland at 410.767.7758. Please ask for Norris West or Billy Treger.

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